THE RED LIGHT.

My preface must be that I am a railway official, and that any part of a train may be invaded by me without question. It will not be then a matter of surprise if I state not be then a matter of surprise if I state that I stood with a driver on a special engine. I was returning from inspecting the scene of an accident, much damage done to rolling stock and the permanent way, happily none to life and limb. There was to be an inquiry. Whether it was signalman's or pointsman's fault remained to be acceptained.

"We shall come to a tree directly," said Harry Staves, my driver, when he had cov-cred some mikes of the return journey. "I

rees some miles of the return journey. "I never pass it without having a sickly sort of feeling. A bad accident happened there, 'twill be twelve or thirteen years ago." "Oh?" I assented without evincing much interest. I did not consider it prudent to encourage him to proceed. Talk will ab-stract the best man's attention. It was necessary for him to keep a sharp look-out ahead. The day had ended in snow, the aspect of the country changing in an incredibly short space of time. At Croftley we switched to take in water and to allow certain trains to pass, and here as we stood in shelter after some little presemble here. in shelter, after some little preamble, he re

sumed his story.
"There wasn't a steadler, trustier driver "There wasn't a steadier, trustier driver than my mate, Jim Sutton, and he'd been lucky. He'd never been in an accident. I believe, when one did happen, the company thought of him, and believed that, if he'd been driving, nothing would have happened. He was a sort of model man for them. I'd been stoker for him almost from the time left the sized. Lid there is a left the sized. I left the shed. I'd been reckoned a lucky chap to get put with him. So I was. After I'd been with him a few years, I might have got put on as occasional driver, but I didn't care for that sort of catch-work. I explained this to the locomotive superintendent, and he allowed me to stay with Jim. You see a man in this, as in other posts, may be qualified for something better, but he has to wait for a

"Well, we'd got very near that tree I pointed out, when there was a sudden grind, and off the rails we went and down the emand off the rails we went and down the embankment. A good thing it was the couplings snapped, or a coach or two would have followed us. I was oiling, and lucky it was for me, for I flew, I never exactly knew where. But Jim, poor fellow, happened to have a grip, and went with the engine. Wheen it heeled over, he was partly under it, fast by the legs. Foor fellow, where he was, it was just past being warm—hot enough to roast him. They tried to get him out, and at last had to give it up, and send on for a crane. All that took time. They said it was piteous to hear him begging and prayit was piteous to hear him begging and praying them to get him out,

"I got off very well considering I'd no bones broken. No doubt I touched hard ground, for they picked me up insensible and carried me to a cottage near. When I came to myself I can't tell you how queer
I felt Everything seemed to swim
about; I didn't see very well. I 'ficked'
about with my hands, then I was sure
there was somebody strange in the room,
"'Hallo,' says I, 'where have I got tof'
"'Hallo,' says I, then they bear with!

"'Hush,' says they; 'You keep quiet.'

"'You're at Hagley dale,'
"'Hagley dale,' says I: 'how long have I been in here?"
"'Maybe an hour and a quarter."

"'Where's Jim? How has he got off?"
"'Do you mean the driver?" "I'd got up on my haunches, and I would

"That's just who I mean, says L
"He's under the engine. They're trying to get him out," ""liey're a' long time about it. Is he dead."

"'He was alive a bit sin e."

They tried to stop me. They said I swore at them, as I went limping out of the house. I know to get up the embankment I had to go on all-fours. I crossed the metals, and saw the crowd and the engine on her broadside. I thought I could hear some-A fellow had got my shovel, and there he

of this: I m roarsting."
"Then he went off. Dead? No.

We had him out in less than ten minutes, our jury had come to a decision.

If, instead of running over each other, They entered the court, they'd started digging with my shovel, he'd

wandering. I heard him say, 'The bairns from a juryman that eleven were unam-Liz!' Then he gave a bit of a shudder, and mous on leaving the court, that he alone

tody ought to break it to her, poor thing.'
"I shall have to go,' says he, 'and it's a job I don't like."

had it to go with a different tale. She'll maybe take it better from me. She knows

Jim and me were always good pals.'
"I got out of the cab at the street and hobbled to Jim's house. One of the bairns came to the door.

"'Mammy, Harry's come,' she shouted, toddling the length of the passage as fast as her wee legs would carry her.
"When Liz showed her face, I stood like a

poose nicked in the head. As I went along I'd made up what I should say, but I just felt as if I had to learn to talk. 1 saw that she thought I'd no business to be

""Bad" she asked, her lip quivering and have another, as good and as true, sent to her voice hourse, and looking wild and penal servitude"—sobs choked her voice—"I

"'Liz,' I said,' 'you must keep up a good heart. I thought I'd better—I thought Poor woman, I loo

you'd rather have me come."
"'He's dead,' she monned, 'He'd have been here if any of 'em had had a grain of sense. What were you about?'

"'I'd every bit of sense knocked out of me. They carried me away. When I

came to myself I broke away from 'em, and went back. He was under the engine and I dug him out.' And he was dead! wailed she, droppin;

into a chair and throwing her apron over her head, to rock tackwards and forward,

"I never want another job like that; I didn't leave till I saw she'd got the worst over and a neighbor come in. I just put my hand on her shoulder, and I said to ser, Then'll keep up as good a heart as thou outst, hes. I sha'n't see thee stick fast:

-And it came to me that it would be seene-thing in her way if I went to lodge with her. And when I got there, if I saw the

buirns wanted anything, I'd slip out and buy it, or take 'em out. You see I couldn't bear to see the mites go worse shod or clad than when poor Jim was on the go. The worst was when the little beggers got their new things, they were so keen to show off. Then their mother would sob and tell me she was sure she could never repay me. It used to make me feel as if I'd done something and ought to be horsewhipped. I'd never thought of such a thing.

"I married her at last. I don't know that

never thought of such a thing.

"I married her at last. I don't know that I should ever thought of that, but there's always such nasty slings thrown out if a single man goes to lodge with a young woman. If anybody had said anything to me, I should have known how to deal with 'em. She'd never have told me, but one night, when I got home, Liz's face was all red, and I saw she'd been crying: I should have thought it was about poor Jim—it was the time of the year—but my little net let it out that the year-but my little pet let it out that Mrs. Somebody-or-other had made her mammy cry when she was pipe-claying the door-flag, so I would bottom it. Now I almost wish I'd married her before. You see I can buy anything for the bairns in the natural course now I've taken

The signal was for us to go, but I think my driver's story was about finished. Over the river, through the gaslit town, like fairyland with its mantle of snow on roof and roadway, increasing our speed as we plunged into the darkness. It was snowing faster, the darkness seeming more opaque by reason of the whirling snowflakes. We had matter for self-congratulation, cer-tainly; the wind was with us, not against us; the snow did not drive in our faces, but med to race us, to go as we were go ing, distancing, sailing past us in myriad

"We're nearing Stonebank junction," I beard him murmur. The engine slackened. He biew his whistle twice, a long warning shriek, then a short peremptory call. I saw the signal light before us, white, not

We steamed on, slightly increasing speed, the signal-post came to meet us, so it seemed; then it struck me that a faint rosy hue was on the snow at its foot. A dark mass seemed to loom before us—in motion, crossing our path. My companion made a startled ejaculation. "Jump!" I shouted, as I leaped into the darkness; I saw that he had reversed, but too late; in the twinkling of an eye, in less, I heard the crash of timber, and the escape

Staves stood to his engine and escapemuch better than I did. Besides a broken leg and a contusion of the shoulder, I had internal injuries. I shall carry my scars as long as I live, nor shall I ever be the same man again. But there was another casualty: the engine had crashed into the van of a goods train killing the guard on the spot. For a month I was "a critical case."
While I lay hovering between life and death, there had been an inquiry, resulting in the committal of my driver to the assizes on a charge of manslaughter, heavy

bail being allowed. I was anything but a sound man when I took my place in the witness-box, my comrade of that night in the dock. Perhaps it was my debility that caused me to feel so sed against the counsel for prosecution. He laid such stress on the late prevalence of railway accidents. There was gross culpability; he would go so far as to say the man had deliberately disregarded the signal; he had counted upon getting over the intersecting line. When he saw the danger it was too late to avert the collision.

was too late to avert the collision. The opinion was that virtually the accused had no defense. The signalman had sworn to due execution of his duty; a porter corroborated him; he had seen the red light reflected on the snow. I looked at the jury —twelve heavy faces. Were I arraigned, I should fear the twelve more than the be-wigged one under the royal arms. Twelve eleven honest, one less to like a vindictive

face, with defective cranial development. I was under examination. "You were on the engine? It was a beating snowstorm, the wind at your back! You saw the signal light !- ob, imperfectly-to you it appeared to be white? You caught a glean of rosy light cast on the snow as you passed the post? You believe that the disc was coated with snow obscuring the red light? Such thing-poor Jim's cries. Down I rushed, were the leading questions put me by counsel, the last one creating some sensation. one face did not relax, the mind was stubled at least of a beast of prey, the mouth cruel, the eves hard and steely, the ears indicating deficiency of fellow feeling, human sympathy.

There's a crane coming,' the station-master shouted:

"Crane' I hotiered back to him, 'go for spades—come out of the vay, there's none of you with a morsel of brains.' They just did clear out, I can tell you. I think they saw I was good enough for laying open a man's head if he tried to step me.

"Poor Jim—as soon as he saw me, he estationed faintly, 'Harry, for God's sale."

Then beautiful the faces of a beast of prey, the mouth cruel, the eves hard and steely, the ears indicating deficiency of fellow feeling, human sympathy. Opposing counsel jumped to his feet, was checked a little by the judge. He was to remember that I was a wreck. A witness was recalled. My conjectural opinion was recalled. My conjectural opinion was strengthened rather than important the counterpance of the beautiful and the present of a beast of prey, the mouth cruel, the eves hard and steely, the ears indicating deficiency of fellow feeling, human sympathy. Opposing counsel jumped to his feet, was checked a little by the judge. He was to remember that I was a wreck. A witness was recalled. My conjectural opinion was strengthened rather than important the counterpance was that of a beast of prey, the mouth cruel, the eves hard and steely, the ears indicating deficiency of fellow feeling, human sympathy. Opposing counsel jumped to his feet, was checked a little by the judge. He was to remember that I was a wreck. A witness was recalled. My conjectural opinion was strengthened or attention of the counterpance was that of a beast of prey, the mouth cruel, the eves hard and steely, the ears indicating deficiency of fellow feeling, human sympathy. Opposing counsel jumped to his feet, was checked a little by the judge. He was to remember that I was a wreck. A witness was recalled. My conjectural opinion was strengthened to the counterpart of the counterpart of th

"Then he went off. Dend: No. He away, another case was called, and another fainted, or something of the kind. I dug jury enganelled. Just before this case con-like a demon, and I soon had others helping. chiefed, the judge was communicated with,

They entered the court, eleven conscious of the load that would be alive now.

"They wetted his lips with brandy, and he seemed to come to a bit. But I don't be lieve he was really himself, I think he was appear pure imagination. I had it later "They limit to help me up the emisantment, and I went on to Datelose. They got a cub to take me on to my lodge. But I says to the super, 'There's Jim's wife—some body ought to break it to her, passe this. of the court." The accused was a young girl feeling acutely her position. But to return. Til go, sir,' says I; 'I'd give £1,000 if I There was a dead silence preceding the

"Gentlemen of the jury, have you agreed upon your verdict?"

"Do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty! Not guilty.

was suppressed, but scarcely visited with "A very proper finding," commented the judge, "the evidence of the last witness ma-terially affected the case."

I heard a woman's passionate weeping. I there that time of day. Every bit of color went out of her face, and she staggared against the door jamb.

"Liz,' I said, 'we've had an accident, and—Jim's hurt.'

"To have had a husband killed was terrible enough, to think," faltered she, "I should have needed

Poor woman, I looked at her tenretained face, and did not find it difficult to believe ber. - Ldwin Whelpton in Home Chimes

Woods linve Their Admittes. There is no reason to doubt that woods It has been stated on authority that has not been custioned, that certain woods (both dry, when place i in contact will soon rot, but when in contact with other woods will act rot. It would be reasonable to suppose that the nature of a piece of wood has its likes and melike, that it will repulse and went off peaceful-like His last words were of you and the bairns.

that the nature of a peace of wood has its likes and suchkes, that it will repulse and attract; in other words, that it is affected by that with which it is affected by the with the particle of the peace of wood has its affected by the peace of wood has a peace of wood has its affected by the peace of wood has its affected by the peace of wood has a peace of wood has by that with which it comes in contact. Were it of so, is would be an exception in the minera, animat, and vegetable king-

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snatched at it he wouldn't leave go.

"See here," said I in a raging tempor, "if you want to keep a whole skin, you'll leave one face did not relax, the mind was stubles on the system. The countries of the saturnine jurymen seemed to indicate such as Spermaterized, instead of the saturnine jurymen seemed to indicate such as Spermaterized, instead of the saturnine jurymen seemed to indicate such as Spermaterized, and all the special results of such as Spermaterized, and such a SYPHILIS positively cured and entirely enallented from the system. GLEET and STRICTURE curst in patients of years standing. PHES and other diseases of the genito urinary or gaus quickly cured. He guarantees all curante cases if he cannot cure you he will plainly fell you so.

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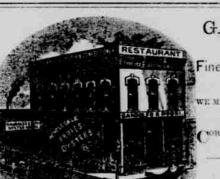
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